

Appln No. 10/017,759

Amdt date January 20, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 17, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 and 49 are pending in the application. In the October 17, 2003 Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Baumstark, et al.; rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Baumstark, et al. in view of Bernard and Brown; allowed claim 49; and objected to claims 7-17, indicating that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

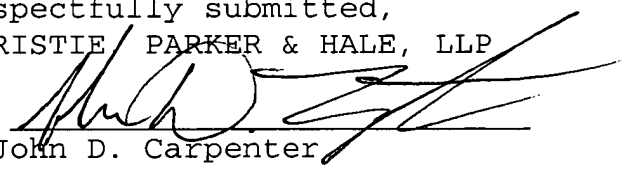
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In order to advance this case to issuance, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6 and 18-20, and amended claims 7 to include the limitations of claims 1 and 4. The amendment does not narrow the scope of claim 7 or the claims that depend therefrom, as it merely recites, expressly, the limitations recited in claims 1 and 4, from which claim 7 previously depended.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue cancelled claims 1-6 and 18-20 in a subsequent continuation application.

In view of the amendment, Applicants submit that the case is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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